

## Beko, Michele

---

**From:** Loraine Ritchey <lritch7@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 1, 2025 1:19 PM  
**To:** Golden, Kathryn  
**Cc:** Kuzsnir, Matt; Zaleski, Don; Riley, Patrick; LaVeck, Joseph; Koziura, Joseph; Soto, Rick  
**Subject:** Re: concern and question Knapp St.Joes

External sender <lritch7@yahoo.com>

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Thank you I thought that might be the case ... I appreciate the response Loraine

On Friday, August 1, 2025 at 12:24:24 PM EDT, Golden, Kathryn <kathryn\_golden@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Good afternoon Loraine,

Thank you for reaching out for clarification. The Lorain County Land Bank received an award for site cleanup at St. Joe's from the State of Ohio (Dept of Development). Like the majority of public grant funds, the funding is in the form of a reimbursable grant, meaning expenditures must occur and evidence of payment must be provided to the granting agency prior to reimbursement. As work under the grant scope has yet to occur, no expenditures have been incurred, and therefore no reimbursements have been sought.

The State of Ohio (Dept of Development) is in possession of their funds.

**Kate Golden, CPMSM, CFM** | Storm Water Manager | City of Lorain Engineering Department

200 West Erie Avenue, Lorain, OH 44052 | p. 440.204.2059

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**From:** Loraine Ritchey <lritch7@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 1, 2025 11:39 AM  
**To:** Riley, Patrick <Patrick\_Riley@cityoflorain.org>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; Soto, Rick <Rick\_Soto@cityoflorain.org>; Golden, Kathryn <Kathryn\_Golden@cityoflorain.org>; Koziura, Joseph <Joe\_Koziura@cityoflorain.org>  
**Cc:** Kuzsnir, Matt <Matt\_Kuzsnir@cityoflorain.org>; Zaleski, Don <Don\_Zaleski@cityoflorain.org>  
**Subject:** Fw: concern and question Knapp St.Joes

**Warning: Unusual sender** <[lritch7@yahoo.com](mailto:lritch7@yahoo.com)>

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----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Lor Ritch <[lritch7@gmail.com](mailto:lritch7@gmail.com)>

**To:** Loraine Ritchey <[lritch7@yahoo.com](mailto:lritch7@yahoo.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, August 1, 2025 at 11:31:34 AM EDT

**Subject:** concern and question Knapp St.Joes

I have attached the latest speculation and "unconfirmed " reports sent to me re Rey Carrion etc but **that is not why I am contacting you** .Knapp mentioned St.Joes and the monies..... I was unaware any monies were held for that clean up . can you confirm the case or not an if so where are they held and the total amount . As you know I am finishing up this series ( Demo of St.Joes) . I am assuming since Knapp runs with drama and speculation this is not accurate. Please confirm one way or another Thank You Loraine

## Beko, Michele

---

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 1, 2025 7:03 AM  
**To:** Beko, Michele; City Council Mail Group; 19tips@woio.com; Mike Mason; Noelle Williams; Cleveland Scene; Robert J. Gargas; Garon Petty; Jack Bradley; Rey Carrion; Lorain Daily; David Yost AG; Fox 8; Patrick Riley; Breanna Dull; Tony Cillo; Brian Ames  
**Cc:** LaVeck, Joseph  
**Subject:** Re: Records request

**External sender** <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Dear Mr. Zaleski,

This message serves as a final formal notice and evidentiary record ahead of my upcoming Ohio Court of Claims hearing involving the City of Lorain's failure to produce records related to a public funds disbursement to an LLC affiliated with Mr. Joseph LaVeck. The disbursement in question involves approximately \$9,000 in COVID-19-related relief—potentially under PPP, ARPA, or a city-administered reimbursement program.

I originally submitted my public records request on August 23, 2024, with a follow-up on August 30, 2024. In these communications, I specifically asked for all records related to the payout in question. Your response, dated July 31, 2025, claimed that your office had no records "in its possession" but did not confirm whether the payout occurred, forward the request to any other department, or deny the existence of responsive records.

To this date, I have not received:

1. Any clarification under R.C. 149.43(B)(2) regarding the breadth or scope of the request;
2. Any indication that the request was referred to a different department (such as Finance, the Auditor's Office, or any administrator responsible for pandemic-related grant funds);
3. Any exemption notice under R.C. 149.43(B)(3) citing a lawful basis to withhold the requested records.

The City's position has consistently been limited to "we are not in possession of the records," without ever identifying who is or confirming whether the disbursement occurred. This constitutes a constructive denial under Ohio public records law. The lack of any meaningful effort to clarify, forward, or locate the responsive records reflects a sustained pattern of noncompliance with the Public Records Act.

To be clear, I am seeking all records from 2020–2024 involving any disbursement of public funds to any business or LLC affiliated with Mr. LaVeck, particularly under PPP, ARPA, or any other COVID relief vehicle. This includes but is not limited to:

- Grant applications, invoices, or reimbursement requests;
- Contracts, agreements, or Council resolutions authorizing payment;
- Communications regarding approval or administration of funds;
- Vendor payment logs, disbursement records, or financial ledgers.

Because Mr. LaVeck is both a sitting public official and potential private beneficiary of these public funds, the City has a heightened obligation to maintain transparency.

I am giving your office one final opportunity to respond in good faith and cure the violation before the Court reviews the matter. Please respond by the close of business on Thursday, August 8, 2025, and:

1. Confirm whether the payout occurred;

2. Identify the department(s) or individual(s) who maintain the records if your office does not;
3. Produce the responsive records or provide a clear legal denial citing statutory exemptions.

Absent a meaningful response, I intend to submit this communication and the related correspondence to the Court as part of my hearing evidence to demonstrate that the City has had multiple opportunities over the past year to comply and has failed to do so.

Respectfully,  
Aaron Christopher Knapp, LSW, CDCA(p), BSSW

Petitioner – Ohio Court of Claims

**Aaron Christopher Knapp, BSSW, LSW, CDCA**  
**NASW Member ID: 886836612**

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On Thursday, July 31, 2025 at 02:31:15 PM EDT, Beko, Michele <michele\_beko@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Mr. Knapp,

The Law Director's Office has no records in its possession pertaining to your request of August 20, 2024 as to a city payout to Mr. LaVeck's LLC.

Donald M. Zaleski

Asst. Law Director

---

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 30, 2024 12:39 PM  
**To:** City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Riley, Patrick <Patrick\_Riley@cityoflorain.org>; Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Records request

Following up, again.

**Aaron Christopher Knapp, LSW, CDCA(p),BSSW**

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Aaron Knapp <[a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com](mailto:a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com)>  
**Date:** August 23, 2024 at 11:08:16 EDT  
**To:** Joseph LaVeck <[Joseph\\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org)>, City Group  
<[CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org](mailto:CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org)>  
**Subject:** Records request

I'm still waiting on you to provide all documents in regards to the payout to Mr. LaVeck's LLC that the city paid for around 9k.

Thanks.

**Aaron Christopher Knapp, LSW, CDCA(p),BSSW**

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**From:** Loraine Ritchey <lritch7@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 1, 2025 11:39 AM  
**To:** Patrick Riley; Joseph LaVeck; rick\_soto@cityoflorain.org; Kathryn Golden; Joseph Koziura  
**Cc:** Matt Kuszniir; Don Zaleski  
**Subject:** Fw: concern and question Knapp St.Joes  
**Attachments:** knapp unconfirmed 1.jpg; knapp unconfirmed 3.jpg; knapp unconfirmed.jpg

**Warning: Unusual sender** <lritch7@yahoo.com>

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**Cc:** Kuzsnir, Matt <Matt\_Kuzsnir@cityoflorain.org>; Zaleski, Don <Don\_Zaleski@cityoflorain.org>  
**Subject:** Fw: concern and question Knapp St.Joes

**Warning: Unusual sender <lritch7@yahoo.com>**

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**Beko, Michele**

---

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 2, 2025 8:15 AM  
**To:** City Council Mail Group; Jack Bradley; Mike Mason; Lorain daily; Noelle Williams; Clevescene; Garon Petty; Fox; Rey Carrion; Brian Ames; David Yost AG; Breanna Dull; Robert J. Gargas; Joseph LaVeck; Garon Petty  
**Subject:** Please don't make threats in open meetings to sue "journalists"

**External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>**  
Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

**What the Mayor's Threat Really Was: Chilling Speech**

When a sitting mayor threatens a journalist with a lawsuit for reporting on public meetings and records, that's not just rhetoric—it's a tactic. A tactic meant to discourage:

- Government scrutiny
- Citizen watchdog activity
- Public participation

It's known as a SLAPP—a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation. These threats are designed to silence dissent and intimidate people from speaking out.

Ohio lawmakers are working to stop this kind of abuse through SB 138 (an anti-SLAPP bill), but even without that, the First Amendment is clear: reporting on matters of public concern—especially using verified records and fair commentary—is constitutionally protected.

No amount of intimidation will stop the truth. I stand by my reporting.

#FirstAmendment #JournalismIsNotDefamation #TransparencyMatters #LorainPolitics #SLAPP #SB138 #LorainRecordsCommission

**Aaron Christopher Knapp, LSW, CDCA(p), BSSW**

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## Beko, Michele

---

**From:** Brian Ames <bmames00@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 2, 2025 11:08 AM  
**To:** Aaron Knapp  
**Cc:** City Council Mail Group; Jack Bradley; Mike Mason; Lorain daily; Noelle Williams; Clevescene; Garon Petty; Fox; Rey Carrion; David Yost AG; Breanna Dull; Robert J. Gargas; Joseph LaVeck  
**Subject:** Re: Please don't make threats in open meetings to sue "journalists"

**Warning: Unusual sender** <bmames00@gmail.com>

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It is already the law.

On Sat, Aug 2, 2025, 8:14 AM Aaron Knapp <[a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com](mailto:a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com)> wrote:  
What the Mayor's Threat Really Was: Chilling Speech

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## Beko, Michele

---

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 2, 2025 11:40 AM  
**To:** Brian Ames  
**Cc:** City Council Mail Group; Jack Bradley; Mike Mason; Lorain daily; Noelle Williams; Clevescene; Garon Petty; Fox; Rey Carrion; David Yost AG; Breanna Dull; Robert J. Gargas; Joseph LaVeck  
**Subject:** Re: Please don't make threats in open meetings to sue "journalists"

**External sender** <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
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You are correct. I did make it sound like it wasn't current

**Aaron Christopher Knapp, LSW, CDCA(p),BSSW**

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On Aug 2, 2025, at 11:08, Brian Ames <bmames00@gmail.com> wrote:

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## Beko, Michele

---

**From:** Garon Petty <onelung2014@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 2, 2025 11:43 AM  
**To:** Aaron Knapp  
**Cc:** Brian Ames; City Council Mail Group; Jack Bradley; Mike Mason; Lorain daily; Noelle Williams; Clevescene; Fox; Rey Carrion; David Yost AG; Breanna Dull; Robert J. Gargas; Joseph LaVeck  
**Subject:** Re: Please don't make threats in open meetings to sue "journalists"

### **Warning: Unusual link**

This message contains an unusual link, which may lead to a malicious site. Confirm the message is safe before clicking any links.

Every Lawyer knows NYT v Sullivan?

New York Times Co. v. Sullivan is a landmark 1964 U.S. Supreme Court case that significantly shaped the legal understanding of defamation and the First Amendment's protection of freedom of speech. The case established that public officials suing for defamation must prove "actual malice," meaning the statement was made with knowledge of its falsity or with reckless disregard for the truth. This standard makes it more difficult for public figures to win defamation lawsuits.

### Background:

The case arose from a full-page advertisement in The New York Times that criticized the police response to civil rights protests in Montgomery, Alabama. While the ad contained some inaccuracies, it also highlighted important issues related to the Civil Rights Movement. L.B. Sullivan, a Montgomery city commissioner, sued the Times for libel, claiming the ad defamed him personally, even though he wasn't mentioned by name. The Alabama courts sided with Sullivan, awarding him \$500,000 in damages, but the Times appealed to the Supreme Court.

### Supreme Court Decision:

The Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision, reversed the Alabama court's ruling. The Court recognized the vital role of a free press in a democracy and the potential chilling effect that overly broad defamation laws could have on public debate. The Court held that to protect the free flow of information and ideas, public officials suing for defamation must prove "actual malice". This standard requires proving that the defamatory statement was made with knowledge of its falsity or with reckless disregard for the truth. The Court

reasoned that if public officials could win defamation suits based on minor inaccuracies, it would discourage critical reporting on important public issues.

Significance:

- **First Amendment Protection:**

New York Times v. Sullivan is a cornerstone of First Amendment jurisprudence, significantly expanding the protection of free speech and press, especially regarding public officials and public figures.

- **"Actual Malice" Standard:**

The case established the "actual malice" standard, which remains a crucial element in defamation cases involving public officials and figures.

- **Chilling Effect:**

The decision aimed to prevent a chilling effect on investigative journalism and public discourse by limiting the ability of public officials to sue for defamation.

- **Ongoing Debate:**

Despite its importance, the case continues to be debated and analyzed, with some arguing that it has become too difficult to protect individuals' reputations from false and damaging statements.

On Sat, Aug 2, 2025 at 11:40 AM Aaron Knapp <[a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com](mailto:a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com)> wrote:  
You are correct. I did make it sound like it wasn't current

**Aaron Christopher Knapp, LSW, CDCA(p),BSSW**

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**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 3, 2025 1:52 PM  
**To:** City Council Mail Group; Lorain daily; David Yost AG; Robert J. Gargas; Mike Mason; Noelle Williams; Clevescene; Garon Petty; Jack Bradley; Fox; Rey Carrion; Brian Ames; Joseph LaVeck; Sheriff Jack Hall; Breanna Dull; Mike Failing; Mike Massie; Major Steven Scharschmidt; Patrick Riley; Jacob Morris; Anthony Nici; David Yost AG; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov  
**Subject:** Nice job

**External sender** <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

So here is the Asst Law Director losing to me again.

13:42



11 Messages

## New Record request



Found in Yahoo! Inbox



**Joseph LaVeck**

7/31/24

To: Aaron Knapp >

Mr. Knapp:

Again, I've been told that there is no table of contents or index. The policies and procedures are being reviewed and redacted, but it is going to take several weeks to complete. As soon as it is done, I will let you know.

Thanks.

Best Regards,

Joseph T. LaVeck, Esq  
Chief Asst. Law Director & Police Legal Advisor  
200 W. Erie Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Lorain, Ohio 44052  
joseph\_laveck@cityoflorain.org

[See More](#)





**Lorain Police Department  
Policy Manual**

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**Aaron Christopher Knapp, LSW, CDCA(p),BSSW**

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## Beko, Michele

---

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 4, 2025 11:15 AM  
**To:** Michele Beko; Lorain daily; Mike Mason; Noelle Williams; Clevescene; Robert J. Gargas; Garon Petty; Fox; Jack Bradley; Rey Carrion; David Yost AG; City Group; Joseph LaVeck  
**Subject:** Re: response to email of 8/1/2025 @ 7:03 AM from Atty. Don Zaleski Re: LaVeck PPP

**External sender** <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Dear Mr. Zaleski,

Thank you for your prior response regarding the absence of City of Lorain records reflecting disbursement of public funds to Mr. Joseph LaVeck or any affiliated business entity.

However, I have identified two federally administered Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans made to Joseph T. LaVeck, LLC, both approved and later forgiven:

- May 1, 2020 – \$6,770 (forgiven March 25, 2021)
- February 12, 2021 – \$6,770 (forgiven October 26, 2021)

Given that Mr. LaVeck is a City employee, I respectfully request clarification on the following:

1. From which lender or agency did Mr. LaVeck or his LLC receive these federal funds?
2. Did the City have any role in facilitating, endorsing, or supporting the application or certification process for these PPP loans?
3. Does the City maintain any internal policies or oversight related to employees receiving federal business relief funds while employed in public service?

Understanding that PPP loans were federally administered, I am simply seeking transparency regarding the relationship—if any—between the City and these disbursements, especially where a City employee is involved.

I appreciate your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

**Aaron Christopher Knapp, LSW, CDCA(p), BSSW**

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On Aug 4, 2025, at 10:04, Beko, Michele <Michele\_Beko@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Mr. Knapp,

You state in your request that you are seeking all records from 2020-2024 involving any disbursement of public funds to any business or LLC affiliated with Mr. LaVeck, particularly PPP, ARPA, or any Other Covid Relief vehicle. As you are aware from our prior response, the Law Director's Office is not in possession of any such records. No department within the City of Lorain is in possession of any such records.

The Payroll Protection Program is a U.S. Federal Government Program. No City department has any such "PPP" records. ARPA Funds are administered by the City, but neither Mr. LaVeck nor any business affiliated with Mr. LaVeck received ARPA, PPP, or any other monies from similar state or federal programs administered by the City of Lorain.

Regards,

Donald M. Zaleski  
Asst. Law Director

*Michele T. Beko  
Administrative Asst/Office Manager  
Lorain Law Director's Office  
200 West Erie Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor*

Lorain, OH 44052

440.204.2250

[Michele\\_beko@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Michele_beko@cityoflorain.org)

**Beko, Michele**

---

**From:** Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 4, 2025 1:33 PM  
**To:** Jack Bradley; Rey Carrion; Patrick Riley; Arredondo, Joel; City Council Mail Group; Joe K Auditor; Don Zaleski; Maggie Partin; Michael Scherach; Jeanne Petty; Garon Petty; Aaron Knapp; Teresa Upton  
**Cc:** jon morrow; kirsten@totallyengagedamericans.org Hill; david@yesce.com Moore, David; jfr\_74@hotmail.com Jeff Riddel; Marty Gallagher; Ohio Up!; Teresa Upton; Tony Cillo; Leigh Prugh; Christine Mendoza; Billie Jo Belcher  
**Subject:** Fwd: Nuclear power in a free enterprise environment is the pathway to abundant low-cost electricity.

External sender <rjgargasz@gmail.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Ronald Stein <ronald.stein@energyliteracy.net>  
**Date:** August 4, 2025 at 1:28:00 PM EDT  
**To:** rjgargasz@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Nuclear power in a free enterprise environment is the pathway to abundant low-cost electricity.  
**Reply-To:** ronald.stein@energyliteracy.net

Energy Literacy Newsletter - Let's Face The Elephant in the



**Published August 4, 2025, in [America Out Loud NEWS](https://www.americaoutloud.news/nuclear-power-in-a-free-enterprise-environment-is-the-pathway-to-abundant-low-cost-electricity/)**  
**<https://www.americaoutloud.news/nuclear-power-in-a-free-enterprise-environment-is-the-pathway-to-abundant-low-cost-electricity/>**

**Nuclear power in a free enterprise environment  
pathway to abundant low-cost electricity**

*Getting Government, mandates, and subsidies out-of-the-way will benefit humanity and allow creative free enterprise to succeed in delivering electricity to the world.*

Hello Robert,

*Co-authored by [Ronald Stein](#), [Oliver Hemmers](#), and [Steve Curtis](#)*

The rising cost of electricity is primarily due to the entrenched nature of utility monopolies that restrict consumer choice and inhibit market competition. As the electricity demand steadily increases, driven by factors such as the proliferation of electric vehicles, population growth, and expansion of energy-intensive data and AI centers—electricity supply remains limited by regulatory frameworks and market models.

Protected from competition, utilities have a minimal incentive to innovate or control prices. The expenditures associated with integrating unreliable, intermittent, and low-energy-density energy sources, volatility in fossil fuel markets, and heightened regulatory requirements are passed on to consumers. Without the discipline imposed by competition, there is little to prevent continued price increases; thus, as demand surpasses supply, the fundamental principles of economics mandating that supply and demand be equal, costs will continue to escalate for all who rely on the electrical grid, which is everyone.

Historically, nuclear power systems have been approximately 97% identical to coal power plants, the primary difference being the heat source, which is the energy required to convert water to power the turbines. Coal mining operations faced threats to their monopolies when the small percentage of naturally occurring radioactive decay of uranium (U-235) proved to be many times more potent than the heat generated by burning coal. The uranium (U235) that occurs as a trace material in the coal contains more energy than the coal itself. The coal industry, viewing nuclear power as a rival, should have continued its early practice of promoting nuclear power as its "next generation" power. We are trying to give the fossil fuel industry a good reason to abandon its previous policy of embracing nuclear power.

The recent craze for clean energy did not revisit the powerful clean energy solution of nuclear power but came up with the absolute worst solutions possible – wind and solar power. These are expensive, least reliable, and environmentally disastrous “solutions” to electricity production that anybody could have cooked up. Trying to integrate these boondoggles into the various national energy policies is very expensive and causes blackouts in other countries.

The strange world of nuclear power centers on the realization that nature has provided us with a solution to improve our quality of life, yet our society is amassing as many obstacles as possible to its fruition. Commercial nuclear power has a 70-year track record of enormous success to be proud of.

The benefits of nuclear energy have been obscured by the massive amount of money spent creating a fog of doubt in the public's perception of these benefits. Techniques such as this used to be called “antitrust” or “unfair competition”, but these days they seem to be “business as usual”.

This “business as usual” is especially troubling because the very Government we trust to look out for our best interests is complicit in creating the fog that is clouding its progress. We can ponder why we have come to this case all we want, but we need to focus on how to reverse the damage caused over the last 70 years of the marketing of electricity to the public.

The marketing of electricity is now conducted through business entities called “utilities,” and a century of government thinking has led us to believe that electricity can only be marketed as a monopoly.

Therefore, we are limited to purchasing our electricity from only one company. This is made even more complicated by the fact that there is no other commodity that directly affects our quality of life than electric energy. If you possess this commodity, you are part of the top tier of wealthy societies. If you do not, you are relegated to third-world status with a very meager quality of life. The very thing that has given us to lift our lives out of poverty is subjected to government-supported obstacles that deliberately deny us the maximum benefit of this bounty purposely.

Even proponents of nuclear power seem focused on relegating this industry to failure. Nuclear power is marketed by describing dangers that could happen, even if those dangers have a proven history of safety. No person has ever been hurt from the normal operations of nuclear power production in the last 70 years of actual history. The Chernobyl incident did not happen under “normal operation” and no one was hurt because of the failures of either Three Mile Island or Fukushima. No other industry comes close to this safety record. We accept the risk of driving cars when more than 40,000 people die each year from such behavior. We accept the risk of flying commercial airlines that kill an average of more than 500 people per year. The safety burden on these industries is almost non-existent compared to the massive burden imposed on the nuclear power industry by government involvement in the industry.

It is difficult to justify the stringent restrictions and prohibitive progress imposed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, especially when their claim of preventing safety failures contradicts the fact that the nuclear industry has been the safest on the planet over the last 70 years.

However, the most significant burden on the nuclear power industry is the massive weight of government-imposed monopolies. Customers must purchase power from a single source, regardless of the source. If the enormous costs imposed by “renewables” crop up on your bill, the price will rise. If the cost of natural gas increases, you have no alternative but to pay the price.

While the demand for additional electricity over the past 20 years has been in the range of a few percent per year, AI and data centers will need 10% or more per year alone for their power needs. You will pay the price for this mistake as demand for electric power increases. An immutable rule for increasing demand while supply remains constant is that costs rise. If there is no alternative supply, they will continue to rise. Why would a monopoly want this to characterize its business, guaranteed profit, all on the backs of hapless ratepayers.

Yes, you are not “customers”. You are “ratepayers”. The companies building data centers bid for power that they will bid costs as high as necessary to get their power. Exceeding a dollar per kWh is common. The massive profits for these centers, and some have stated they will be profitable at three dollars per kWh (\$3 per kWh, or at least 15 times the current price). So, who will get electricity? Consumers who can pay for electricity is expensive at \$0.20 per kWh, or those willing to pay \$3.00 per kWh.

No electric power system, except for nuclear, is scalable enough to meet this growing demand. Furthermore, the new types of nuclear power plants can recycle the slightly used nuclear fuel.

existing fleet of nuclear power plants that has accumulated over the past five decades, offer unlimited electricity at pennies per kWh.

The roadblocks ahead are the monopolies of utilities, which have a high resistance to change always have.

Yet, both AT&T and Standard Oil were “de-monopolized” by Federal mandate. Yet, arguably essential commodity to citizens seems to be mandated to remain a monopoly by the same government (or, maybe not the same?). Electricity can be easily transmitted directly to customers through the electric grid, just like phone service is transmitted over radio networks. In fact, with the modern Generation IV reactors, they can supply direct power without a grid. All we need is to get the Government monkey off our back and relegate them to their original purpose of looking all through creating and enforcing laws that mandate fair play in a free enterprise world.

Free enterprise in the electric power sector will unleash innovation and competition, resulting in the lowest electricity rates. All citizens will benefit from that, but, as always, you must demand it.

*Please share this information with teachers, students, and friends to encourage Energy Literacy conversations at the family dinner table.*

In the event you are not yet on distribution, click this Link to [Sign up for Energy Literacy](#)  
**Ronald Stein**

## **Publications**

*My books have a common theme as they address the elephant in the room that the ruling class and the media refuse to talk about, i.e., the lack of products in the future, and the lack of fuels for planes, ships, militaries, and space programs, manufactured from fossil fuels that built the world from 1 to 8 billion people in less than 200 years. Without a planned replacement for crude oil to make those same products, limiting the supply of products and fuels manufactured from crude oil will inflict shortages and inflation in perpetuity lifestyles.*

**More Information**

**Hello Robert,**  
Energy literacy starts with the knowledge that **Crude oil is the basis of our materialistic society.** All the components and equipment for the generation of electricity by wind, solar, coal, gas, nuclear, and hydro are all made from the oil derivatives manufactured from it. For the 8 billion on this planet that are quite dependent on food and medications, wind turbines and solar panels cannot manufacture any of the fuels for 50,000 ships, 50,000 planes, militaries, and space programs, nor can they make the 6,000 products

our daily lives. Enhancing ones energy literacy will empower individuals to have conversations on energy at the dinner table with friends and co-workers .

[View Full Profile](#)

### A few takeaways on energy literacy, i.e., the elephant in the room that no one wants to talk about

1. The potential for nuclear fusion for unlimited zero-emission electricity is exciting. In the decades ahead, to wean the world from coal and natural gas for generation.
2. Facing reality, fusion, like wind, solar, nuclear, and hydro, ONLY generate electricity. They do not manufacture any products, or fuels for transportation infrastructures needed by this planet.
3. On the other hand, we have crude oil that is never used for generating electricity, AND is useless until its manufactured into usable products via the 700 refineries around the world.
4. Today, the world's 8 billion are dependent on food and medicine moving around the world on 50,000-merchant ships and 50,000 jets, and more than 6,000 products made from derivatives manufactured from crude oil.
5. The militaries and space programs are all based on the fuels manufactured from crude oil.
6. We may have long-range plans to generate electricity from wind, solar, and nuclear, but we have no plans to replace crude oil that is manufactured into everything in our daily lives.

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**CLEAN ENERGY EXPLOITATIONS**  
**A Pulitzer Prize nominated**  
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## **Beko, Michele**

---

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 4, 2025 5:26 PM  
**To:** Michele Beko; Mike Mason; Sensai Cobra; Noelle Williams; Lorain daily; Clevescene; Robert J. Gargas; Fox; Garon Petty; City Group; Jack Bradley; Rey Carrion; David Yost AG; Brian Ames; Joseph LaVeck; Breanna Dull  
**Subject:** Public Records Request – Donald Zaleski LLC

**External sender** <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

**To:**  
City Clerk or Public Records Officer  
City of Lorain  
200 West Erie Avenue, Lorain, OH 44052

**Subject:** Public Records Request – Donald Zaleski LLC

Dear City Clerk/Public Records Officer,

Under Ohio's Public Records Law (Sunshine Law), I request copies of the following records related to Donald Zaleski LLC, for the period January 1, 2020 – [most recent date, e.g. July 31, 2025]:

1. Business licenses or permits issued by the City of Lorain.
2. Any contracts, grants, or financial transactions between the city and Donald Zaleski LLC.
3. City communications (emails, letters, memos) referencing Donald Zaleski LLC.
4. PPP-related documentation or certifications on file for Donald Zaleski LLC.

If available, please provide records in digital format. If fees apply, kindly notify me beforehand. If any portion is denied, please provide reasons including specific legal exemptions.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

**Aaron Christopher Knapp, LSW, CDCA(p),BSSW**

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## Beko, Michele

---

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 4, 2025 5:36 PM  
**To:** City Council Mail Group; Jack Bradley; Mike Mason; Lorain daily; Noelle Williams; Clevescene; Garon Petty; Fox; Rey Carrion; Brian Ames; David Yost AG; Breanna Dull; Robert J. Gargas; Joseph LaVeck  
**Subject:** Re: Please don't make threats in open meetings to sue "journalists"

**External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>**  
Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

No responses? Nice!

**Aaron Christopher Knapp, LSW, CDCA(p),BSSW**

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On Aug 2, 2025, at 08:14, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

What the Mayor's Threat Really Was: Chilling Speech

When a sitting mayor threatens a journalist with a lawsuit for reporting on public meetings and records, that's not just rhetoric—it's a tactic. A tactic meant to discourage:

- Government scrutiny
- Citizen watchdog activity
- Public participation

It's known as a SLAPP—a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation. These threats are designed to silence dissent and intimidate people from speaking out.

Ohio lawmakers are working to stop this kind of abuse through SB 138 (an anti-SLAPP bill), but even without that, the First Amendment is clear: reporting on matters of public concern—especially using verified records and fair commentary—is constitutionally protected.

No amount of intimidation will stop the truth. I stand by my reporting.

#FirstAmendment #JournalismIsNotDefamation #TransparencyMatters #LorainPolitics  
#SLAPP #SB138 #LorainRecordsCommission

**Aaron Christopher Knapp, LSW, CDCA(p), BSSW**

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**Beko, Michele**

---

**From:** Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 5, 2025 7:51 AM  
**To:** David Yost AG; NortheastRegion@ohioauditor.gov; Mike Mason; Mike Massie; Major Scharschmidt; lcp@lcpProsecutor.org; Sheriff Jack Hall; Tony Cillo; Tori Middlebrooks; Robert J Gargas; Michael Scherach; City Council Mail Group; Carrion, Rey; Patrick Riley; Soto, Rick; Brad Dicken; Jonathan.Schuppe@nbcuni.com; Elsebeth Baumgartner; Mike.Brosky@fflorain.bank; Kathryn Kennedy; Denise Wilms; Jeanne Petty; Jessie Tower; LorainNAACP@gmail.com; Carissa Woytach; Lindsay Carr; Linda Rivera; Fox 8; FIRE; Stephanie Jablonsky; Institute for Justice; Brian Ames; Jackie Conrad; Aaron Knapp; Craig Snodgrass; Darryl Tucker; Beko, Michele; Teresa Upton; Sensai Cobra; Mike Doran; Mike Witte; clandestinecanary; LorainDaily; Clevescene  
**Subject:** Fwd: Lorain's Records Commission Had an 8-Month Gap in Meetings

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Aaron C Knapp from Aaron's Substack  
<lorainpoliticsunplugged@substack.com>  
**Subject:** Lorain's Records Commission Had an 8-Month Gap in Meetings  
**Date:** August 5, 2025 at 2:25:26 AM EDT  
**To:** garonpetty@roadrunner.com  
**Reply-To:** Aaron C Knapp from Aaron's Substack  
<reply+2tayfv&5j0f6l&&94a630f8bc793d912a225020058d5b22ef01837b8dd49d3903909f5b3ece65ff@mg1.substack.com>

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# Lorain's Records Commission Had an 8-Month Gap in Meetings

By Aaron Knapp | Lorain Politics Unplugged

AARON C KNAPP

AUG 5



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When city officials criticized my July 2025 report on the Lorain Records Commission's inactivity, they failed to acknowledge a far more serious breach—one documented in their own archives. Between **August 25, 2020**, and **May 10, 2021**, the Records Commission failed to hold any meetings at all. That gap exceeded the six-month requirement imposed by Ohio law.

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## Why This Matters to You

This might sound like a bureaucratic technicality—but it's not.

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***Every time a record is lost or destroyed without oversight, it could be your record. It could be the body cam footage you need to prove misconduct. The grant application for your neighborhood. The billing error on your utilities. Or the document that could exonerate you—or someone you love—from a false accusation.***

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When oversight breaks down, it doesn't just harm reporters or watchdogs. It hurts every resident who depends on a paper trail to hold government accountable.

Transparency isn't a luxury. It's a safeguard. And when that system fails, we all pay the price.

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## What the Law Says: ORC §149.39

Under **Ohio Revised Code §149.39**, each municipal records commission:

"...**shall meet at least once every six months** and upon the call of the chairperson."

The law isn't a suggestion—it's a mandate. The Records Commission plays a vital role in authorizing records retention schedules and approving disposal of obsolete documents. These responsibilities ensure that no record—be it emails, council minutes, disciplinary files, or grant documentation—is unlawfully discarded or mishandled.

When the Records Commission fails to meet as required, several legal and practical risks emerge:

- **Unlawful destruction of records** that should have been preserved for audits, litigation, or public access.
- **Administrative actions** taken without proper retention oversight, which may invalidate policies or resolutions.
- **Loss of evidentiary material** tied to investigations, civil complaints, or fiscal audits.

In short, failure to convene undermines not only the integrity of recordkeeping but also the legal infrastructure that supports transparency and government accountability. When a city government sidesteps this responsibility, it isn't just a bureaucratic lapse—it's a breakdown in lawful governance.

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## Verified Public Gap: August 2020 – May 2021

A review of the city's own **public meeting portal** shows that while multiple government bodies met throughout late 2020—**Board of Control, Demolition Board of Appeals, and Planning Commission**, among

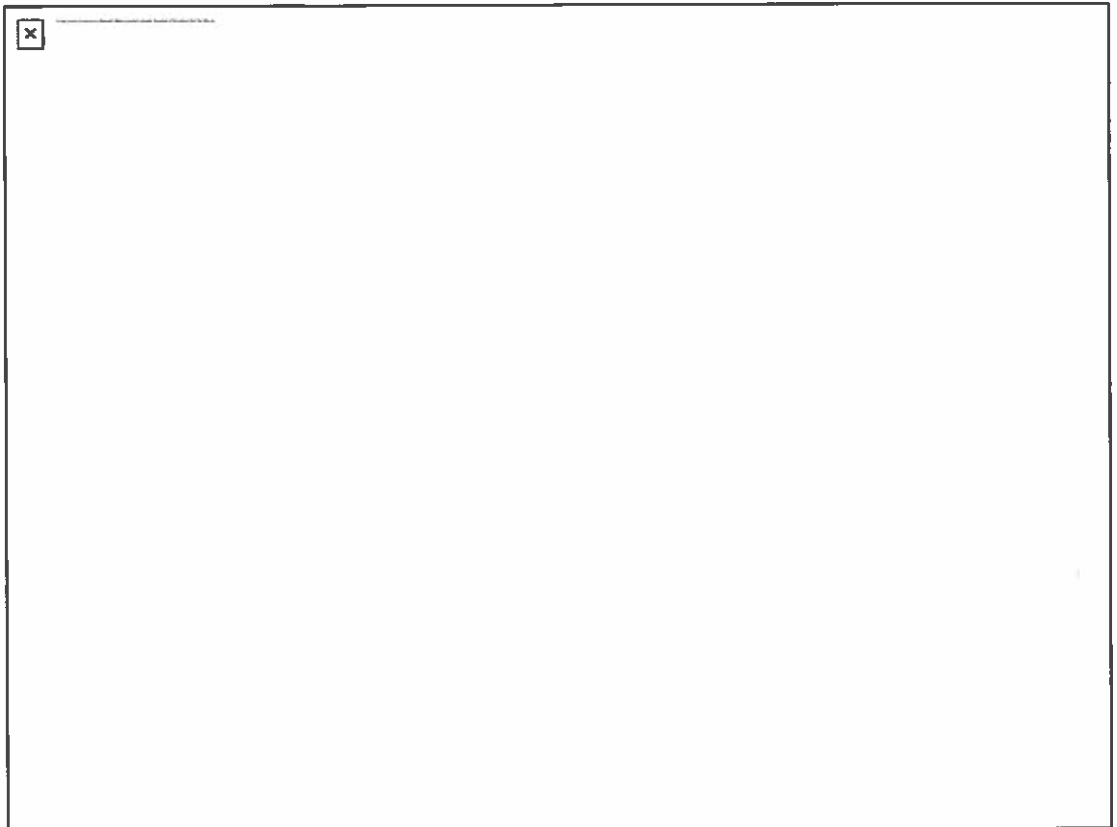
others—no Records Commission meeting appears on the agenda list for August 2020 through May 2021.

This 8-month absence wasn't buried in a backlog—it was clear and visible in the city's official documentation. If such a meeting did occur, then the city failed to meet not just one, but **multiple legal obligations**:

- **No public notice** was posted, in violation of **ORC §121.22(C)**, which requires all public bodies to give at least 24 hours' notice of meetings.
- **No meeting minutes** were published or retained, contrary to **ORC §121.22(G)** and public records retention rules.
- **No agenda** was made available, a violation of best practices for public governance and a common-sense transparency principle.

This wasn't a one-time clerical oversight. It was a systemic failure of governance and documentation. In a city where public records are already under scrutiny for delayed release, selective disclosure, and inconsistent meeting practices, this prolonged absence deepens the credibility crisis. It also raises serious questions: What records were approved for destruction during that time? Who authorized them? And why was the oversight process silent?

Public accountability doesn't work on the honor system—it requires documentation, process, and legal compliance. And during that 2020–2021 gap, Lorain's Records Commission failed all three.



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## The Mayor's Deflection

At the **August 1, 2025 Records Commission meeting**, Mayor Jack Bradley attempted to discredit my reporting by stating:

"Journalists can be sued if they make the wrong claim."

He further suggested that residents shouldn't rely on investigative articles or public notices, but instead should simply "ask" or "call" city hall for information.

This approach is both legally and ethically flawed. Sunshine Laws don't operate on a 'just call us' basis. They require **proactive public posting** of meeting notices and **timely publication of minutes** under **ORC §149.39** and **§121.22**. The right to public records is statutory—not

conditional upon who you know or whether you're willing to call a government office during business hours.

More importantly, Bradley's own remarks may expose *him* to legal liability. Federal courts have consistently ruled that when public officials threaten legal action in response to constitutionally protected speech, such threats may constitute **retaliation** under **42 U.S.C. §1983**. When the goal is to discourage criticism or suppress reporting, that behavior is not just wrong—it's potentially unlawful.

His comment was more than bluster. It was a veiled warning—what legal scholars call a SLAPP: Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation. Even though Ohio's anti-SLAPP bill (SB 138) is still pending, the First Amendment remains fully in effect. The threat of a lawsuit, used by a sitting mayor to intimidate a journalist, only proves the necessity of that journalist's work.

Mayor Bradley should also be aware: false statements made by public officials about private citizens—especially those that imply criminal conduct or professional dishonesty—can give rise to **defamation claims** against *him*. The law protects truthful reporting and public interest commentary—not political leaders who lash out at those holding them accountable.

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## **The City's Delayed Excuse**

In 2025, city staff claimed that the Records Commission did meet on **January 30, 2025**—but did not approve or release minutes until August. They stated this delay was due to the commission's internal practice of only approving minutes at the next semiannual meeting.

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*But this practice is not required by law. Nothing in **ORC §121.22** prohibits publishing draft or unapproved minutes, which many other public bodies*

*across Ohio routinely do. In fact, doing so would promote clarity and public trust.*

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By withholding the existence of this meeting for over six months, the city only deepened public confusion—and gave the appearance of concealment. Timely publication of draft minutes could have resolved the issue before it became a controversy. Instead, the city chose delay over transparency.

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## **A Pattern of Delay and Obstruction**

The **January 2025** meeting minutes were not released until **August 2025**, and only after sustained public pressure and repeated records requests.

When citizens inquired about the meeting schedule, some emails were ignored or redirected to other officials without answers. Meanwhile, public meeting notices were inconsistently posted, sometimes failing to meet **24-hour notice requirements under ORC §121.22(F)**.

This isn't simply a bureaucratic error—it reflects a deeper pattern:

- **The Records Commission failed to meet its six-month duty.**
- **Minutes were withheld until public criticism escalated.**
- **Emails seeking clarity were disregarded.**
- **Citizens were told they should have “called” instead of relying on the public record.**

This sequence of events doesn't indicate mere disorganization. It points to systemic opacity.

When legal compliance becomes optional and transparency becomes adversarial, the public loses faith—not only in individual officials, but in the entire process.

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## **Final Thought: When the Watchdogs Go Silent**

This article isn't about clerical mistakes or gotcha journalism. It's about the people of Lorain and their right to know how their government is handling public information. When oversight boards like the Records Commission go quiet, the public loses a vital safeguard against mismanagement, erasure of history, and abuse of power.

**City officials may criticize the timing or tone of my reporting—but those concerns should never override the public's right to know. If the mayor or commission members believe they've been unfairly represented, the remedy isn't censorship or litigation threats. It's transparency, documentation, and lawful compliance.**

When my original **July 2025** article raised questions about a potential year-long gap in meetings, it was based on the available record—and it included a **clear legal disclaimer inviting readers to verify for themselves**. That disclaimer applied then and it applies now.

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*Indeed, the very issue Mayor Jack Bradley addressed—**unreleased January 2025 meeting minutes**—only proves the point. Had the city released those minutes in a timely manner, the public wouldn't have had to speculate. Had they posted a notice of the meeting, reporters wouldn't have had to dig. This burden was created by city hall, not by citizens asking questions.*

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And while that earlier article focused on a more recent lapse, **this one documents a verified, eight-month violation that no one can deny.**

The goal of this work has never been to embarrass anyone—it's to ensure the law is followed, the truth is recorded, and the public remains informed. When public records vanish or oversight collapses, the entire community suffers—not just reporters.

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## Legal Disclosure

This article is based on official meeting minutes obtained through a public records request and reviewed for accuracy as of August 2025. The conclusions expressed reflect both verified documentation and protected opinion commentary under the First Amendment. Any omissions in the city's public posting or record-keeping are the responsibility of those in office. All citizens are encouraged to request their own copies and challenge denials through the Ohio Court of Claims or Attorney General's Public Records Unit.



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## Beko, Michele

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**From:** Beko, Michele <Michele\_Beko@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 5, 2025 3:17 PM  
**To:** a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Public Records Request of 8.4.2025 - Donald Zaleski LLC  
**Attachments:** Scanned Document.pdf; Scanned Document.pdf; Scanned Document.pdf

Good Afternoon,

On August 4, 2025, you sent a public records request asking for:

Copies of the following records related to Donald Zaleski LLC, for the period January 1, 2020 – [most recent date, e.g. July 31, 2025]:

1. Business licenses or permits issued by the City of Lorain.
2. Any contracts, grants, or financial transactions between the city and Donald Zaleski LLC.
3. City communications (emails, letters, memos) referencing Donald Zaleski LLC.
4. PPP-related documentation or certifications on file for Donald Zaleski LLC.

You requested these records in digital format.

First, it should be noted that the entity you refer to is Donald M. Zaleski LLC. With this being the case, I searched for relevant documents pertaining to both Donald M. Zaleski LLC and Donald Zaleski LLC.

**In response to Request 1:** There are no responsive records. To be more clear, there have been no “business licenses or permits issued by the City of Lorain” to Donald Zaleski LLC or Donald M. Zaleski LLC in the relevant time period.

**In response to Request 2:** There are no responsive records. To be more clear, there have been no “contracts, grants, or financial transactions between “the City and Donald Zaleski LLC or Donald M. Zaleski LLC.

**In response to Request 3:** Please see the attached documents.

Please note that there are additional records that are not subject to disclosure because they contain tax information (not subject to disclosure under R.C.718.84) or are attorney client privileged communications.

**In response to Request 4:**

There are no responsive records. To be more clear, there are no “PPP-related documentation or certifications on file for Donald Zaleski LLC or Donald M. Zaleski LLC.”

Scott Bowles  
Assistant Prosecutor  
City of Lorain Law Department

*Michele T. Beko*  
*Administrative Asst/Office Manager*  
*Lorain Law Director's Office*  
*200 West Erie Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor*  
*Lorain, OH 44052*  
*440.204.2250*  
[\*Michele\\_beko@cityoflorain.org\*](mailto:Michele_beko@cityoflorain.org)

## **Beko, Michele**

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**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 6, 2025 11:08 AM  
**To:** Lorain PD Records Request; Lorain daily; Mike Mason; Clevescene; Noelle Williams; Robert J. Gargas; Garon Petty; Fox; City Group; Jack Bradley; Rey Carrion; David Yost AG; Brian Ames; Breanna Dull; Joseph LaVeck; Mike Failing  
**Subject:** Request for Emails Regarding Aaron Knapp

**External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>**

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

I am still awaiting the full set of emails that meet the following criteria:

1. All emails exchanged between James McCann and Tia Hilton that reference or mention Aaron Knapp, including both sent and received messages.
2. All emails sent to or received from the Sheriff and/or Sheriff's Department that reference or mention Aaron Knapp.

Please confirm receipt of this request and provide an estimated timeline for when these records will be made available.

Thank you,

**Aaron Christopher Knapp, LSW, CDCA(p), BSSW**

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## Beko, Michele

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**From:** Loraine Ritchey <lritch7@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 6, 2025 8:03 PM  
**To:** Patrick Riley; Joseph LaVeck; rick\_soto@cityoflorain.org  
**Cc:** Lor Ritch  
**Subject:** Gargasz FYI  
**Attachments:** Gargasz resp.Knapp records substack.docx

**External sender** <lritch7@yahoo.com>

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This is Gargasz response of Knapp latest substack post in the comments FYIs attached Word., Thought you should know since Law is mentioned.